

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of April 1, 2011

Plenary

Present: Jill Belli, Boris Daussà Pastor, Kyle Ferguson, Eero Laine, Kimberly Libman, Shawn Rice, Jared Simard, Chris Alen Sula, Suzanne Tamang

Executive Committee

Absent: Anick Boyd, Leigh McCallen

Guest: Annie Dell'Aria

Steering Committee

EL calls meeting to order at 6:10

Constitution and Bylaws

I. Approval of Agenda

EL asks for emendations to the agenda. SR adds "IV.d. Resolution on Space," CS adds "IV.e. Steering Discretionary Allocation," EL adds "f. De-Charter of Women of Color Network." ST motions; BDP seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

II. Approval of Minutes

KF adds to V.a.ii that the record should reflect the fact that we had the opportunity to have a policy to avoid this problem and we did not form one and asks to remove V.a.iii. SR motions; KL seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Outreach

Student Services

III. Executive Committee Reports

a. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)

i. AP Hiring Team met and appointed Conor Tomàs Reed to Adjunct Project Coordinator for Advocacy and Education.

ii. Ballots are nearly approved by SERC with voting to open soon. EL will coordinate with KL regarding announcement.

iii. EL asks for signup for spring party.

b. Co-Chair for Communications (Kimberly Libman)

i. Nominations and eligibility have been confirmed.

ii. KL reports that CCC now has access to all-student list for important announcements, such as elections, as well as emergencies.

iii. KL distributes memo from President Kelly regarding guests to building and asks everyone to help ensure compliance.

iv. KL distributes draft memo of agreement from Sharon Lerner regarding funding for Student Health Services. SR asks whether the memo is informative or for vote and adds

that the legal foundation came from a previous bylaw, which contained a sunset clause that expired on June 30, 2008. CS adds that the earmark was not part of the increase approved by the Board of Trustees, that was only part of the rationale for it and urges a distinction between “good faith” and legal notions. BDP notes that the money may still be used for health and wellness without specifically funding an on-site nurse practitioner, and says we should consider what use of the money would be best for students. BDP recommends that off-site services may be better. JB asks about the origin of this agreement memo. KL clarifies that she sought further guidance from Sharon Lerner in reference to Option 3 discussed in the Executive Committee report on Student Health Services. ST adds that students are exploited in STF structure and does not recommend a similar structure for health issues. CS asks for clarification of agreement. KL reports that it asks that \$12 earmark be maintained for 3 years during. CS asks what ‘student health services’ means in the agreement. KL clarifies that the agreement is that \$12 of Student Activity Fees each semester will be allocated to the Wellness Center. CS asks what an agreement would add if Student Affairs thinks that it’s legally binding. KL says that Student Affairs wishes to clarify with DSC their perspective and background information on health services. JB asks about next steps. KL will check on Bylaw 12 and Board of Trustees minutes before presenting this memo to Plenary. KL says that the memo says we commit 96K to NP for next three years and HIC will monitor service and NYSHIP situation, and the memo gives permanence and direction to Student Affairs regarding funding. JS asks about earmark. CS replies that earmark signaled intent and was always contingent. SR requests that Sharon Lerner address Plenary regarding the legality of the commitment. BDP agrees that we need to investigate the legality of the funding and reports that he is uncomfortable supporting the NP for the next three years and wishes to explore other options for health services. EL asks for clarification of role of HIC. KL reports that memo acknowledges role of HIC in ongoing review and services. KL states that the memo records tacit agreements that were not necessarily put down in writing. ST suggests that the language about the recipient of the funding be broadened, and notes that Susan Brillhart, Nursing Science Program Representative, thought that off-site services would be more effective and of higher quality for students. KF seconds BDP and ST’s comments and expresses concern that the document assumes a need for on-site NP services without explanation; if better care is available off-site through experts, that is more in students’ interest. BDP expresses dissatisfaction with survey mechanism because there is no measurement of alternative options, which may offer more because they may be more efficient. KL responds that the language of the referendum may disallow expenditures on anything except “Health Care Services.” KF asks why on-site services provide better. KL replies that with only half of students insured, having an on-site service is important, many students are on-campus and would benefit from services, students in health-related fields may need examinations to support their academic work, and a service dedicated to graduate students may save money and time in emergency situations. CS asks for in-writing clarification of how many students have health insurance, since he has heard that 80% are insured through NYSHIP or some other source. KF notes that convenience seems to be the main argument for having an on-site NP. JB notes that it may be hard getting appointments and that clarification about insured v. uninsured students be provided before any agreement is reached. JB suggests pressuring administration to create positions to bring more students into NYSHIP rather

than continuing a system that may not be working. CS notes that in recent discussions with Student Affairs, the administration seemed open to assembling a task force, which Plenary appreciated, and that CCB has no intent to decrease the total funding for health, though the specific recipient and purpose should be discussed. CS asks (i) why, if the original commitment under Bylaw 12 was 48K specifically to NP, why was there no complain by the administration then (ii) whether following the language of the rationale in the BoT minutes, rather than the DSC's internal understanding of the change as reflected in Bylaw 12, would create precedence for the administration to change the wording or intent of future fee increases and compromise the autonomy of the DSC's control over funds, and (iii) what a legal answer would consist in, given the interests and biases of both the administration and DSC leadership.

c. Co-Chair for Business (Chris Alen Sula)

- i. CS requests that Steering Committee members reviewing room requests check times for accuracy, particularly a.m. and p.m. designations, and request additional information in cases of ambiguity.
- ii. CS presents budget. Discussion ensues.

(a) Fitness classes: SR adds that SS committee might recommend expansion and that off-site options may be necessary, especially given conflicts with student events. SR underscores the need for the 6K for fitness, depending on the data from the survey and he might support an increase. CS asks about funding stream. SR says we may need to increase fees or charge students some amount. SR says we might be using DSC rooms too much and that fitness classes might not serve the full intent of the rooms. JB thinks we may be preventing students from holding events with fitness classes and CLRN. ADA asks about lobby area. CS asks for evidence of conflict; he is aware of problems with Thursday, particularly regarding weekend conferences, but his sense is that Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings and afternoons are not highly desired. KL is unsure of commitment for 6K, given that we are providing space, and it's important to retain the spirit of that agreement and to have greater control over scheduling if we are contributing greater funding. SR asks about what will happen to surplus. KL suggests memorandum of agreement.

(b) USS stipend line: JB think that decrease in USS stipend due to new formula is significant and we should reassess this in light of the goals for USS and the situation of UFS Liaison, who also sits on the Executive Committee. SR suggests that Anick Boyd be present for discussion of UFS Liaison. JS asks for clarification on C&B and announces C&B meeting to discussion duties. KL adds that a brief conceptual discussion may be necessary to inform C&B, and asks for feedback on domain responsibilities, since At-Large Steering Officers, USS Delegate, and UFS Liaison seem equivalent. JB notes that delegates to external bodies should consider taking on GC-related duties if they cannot participate more fully in those bodies. JB notes that USS Delegate attends additional meetings with President and Provost and other meetings as part of the EC, serves on

Executive Committee of Graduate Council, attends Graduate Council, and would be required to attend additional meetings if he/she took on a leadership role. KL expresses hesitation about any increases in stipend lines, and that a broader discussion regarding new steering duties and equity across positions is needed.

d. USS Delegate (Jill Belli)

JB reports that there was a Plenary meeting on March 20. JB was unable to attend and has attempted to follow up but no minutes are available. The Next Plenary is 4/17.

ST asks about STF Vice-Chair's meeting with Cohen. JB does not know because minutes are not available.

e. UFS Liaison (Anick Boyd)

No report.

IV. New Business

a. Appointment to At-Large Steering Officer Domain(s)

SR motions to appoint ADA to Officer for Funding; BDP seconds; motions passes unanimously.

b. 2011/12 Budget

CS motions to approve budget contingent on the approval of bylaw amendments with budgetary impact presented at last Plenary; SR seconds; KL abstains. Motion carries.

c. Adjunct Project Staffing

CS motions to reappoint Conor Tomàs Reed as the Adjunct Project Coordinator for Advocacy & Education for the 2011/12 year; JS seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

d. Resolution on Space

SR reports on the composition of the recently convened Committee on Space, which includes the Provost, several faculty and administrators (particularly from the sciences), and one student (with one alternate); an announcement that all rooms will be booked through a centralized system, Research 25; plans to track room usage by square footage; and prioritization of rental space over all other uses. KL reports that she supports the spirit of this resolution and adds that President and Provost have reported to EC that room rental is one way of meeting budgetary deficits and preserving faculty lines and fellowships. KL asks for premise acknowledging needs for generating revenue. JB suggests stress on maintaining DSC possession and control of Gileece Student Center. CS adds that DPH program has no student space and he views this as a priority since 90% of their classes are at GC and the lack of space severely inhibits their ability to form a community and engage in professional activities.

KL moves to recommend revisions to resolution based on conversation for presentation to Plenary in April; CS seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

e. Steering Discretionary Allocation

CS motions to allocate up to \$1,000 for spring party, with up to \$1,500 total for food; SR seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

f. De-Charter of Women of Color Network Chartered Organization

EL reports that Women of Color Network has requested to be dechartered, with the Co-Chair for Student Affairs to follow Bylaw procedures for de-charter. SR motions to decharter Women of Color Network; BDP seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Funding (Kyle Ferguson)

KF reports that the deadline for the last quarter of applications was March 27, 2011. The next meeting is April 6, 2011.

b. Officer for Governance & Membership (Jared Simard)

JS reports 14 absences at March Plenary, but no removals. C&B meeting being scheduled.

JS raises concern about running out of clickers. CS asks about the outcome of his request to investigate warranty. JS reports no outcome. CS reports that Supplies funds are available, but he would like to see iClicker replace them first. JS will present inventory to CCB.

c. Officer for Health & Wellness (Leigh McCallen)

KL reports that LMC and her will be meeting with Scott Voorhees regarding NYSHIP event. HIC has been processing report of health survey and will discuss them with Scott and consider future directions.

d. Officer for Outreach (Boris Daussà-Pastor)

BP reports that the Outreach committee had the last outreach event at Hunter College the day before, which was surprisingly successful. He encourages that these sorts of events continue as they are surprisingly popular. The next bootcamp is in the making and will be publicized shortly.

e. Officer for Student Life & Services (Shawn Rice)

SR references resolution on space and fitness class survey. Student Services has reviewed CLRN data and recommends continue funding CLRN at current levels and increase publicity to encourage more use.

JB asks about status of writing center proposal. KL reports that the proposal was sent approximately three weeks ago. JB reports internal discussions in English regarding administration request for a proposal for a writing center, particularly connected to international students, and stresses the fact that the DSC has filed a student-led proposal and the need for reinforcement of our proposal with the administration.

f. Officer for Technology & Library (Suzanne Tamang)

ST reports that 700K was allocated at the most recent STF meeting, with approximately 30% coverage of ETI. The projected cost for the next two years is roughly equivalent. New initiatives include off-campus hardware, book scanners, and GIS datasets. ST will follow up on scanners with Julie Cunningham at the next Library Task Force meeting. Discussion ensues regarding licenses of GIS datasets. BDP notes that Citrix is still not fully functional. ST reports that there are several possible improvements contained in her report on Citrix that would not require significant additional funding but are likely to increase performance. ST reports that draft

OpenCUNY Terms of Participation are public and invites commentary before presentation to Media Board and Plenary.

VI. Announcements

SR recognizes Kyle Ferguson for his outstanding performance as the DSC's first Officer for Funding.

ST announces Bob Campbell's openness for server purchase and maintenance.

VII. Adjournment

KF motions to adjourn; JB seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Chris Sula